

Nampa Subregion of the Southwest Region

During 2007, the Nampa Subregion portion of the Southwest Region was home to 13 documented and 1 suspected wolf packs (Figure 9; Table 5). Eight documented packs were counted as breeding pairs. All 6 documented mortalities were human caused. Confirmed sheep losses were attributed to the Applejack, High Prairie, Packer John, Steel Mountain, and Timberline packs, and unknown wolves. Confirmed cattle losses were attributed to the documented High Prairie pack, the suspected Sweet Ola pack, and unknown wolves. Five wolves were removed in total from the High Prairie, Packer John, and Steel Mountain packs. Ten wolves were captured and radiocollared.

Law Enforcement Summary

Conservation Officers, in consultation with USFWS Special Agents, investigated 1 report of a dead wolf. This was a radiocollared wolf which was detected on mortality signal. It was determined to be illegally shot.

Documented Resident Packs

Applejack

Female B306 remained the sole radiocollared member of this pack throughout the year. She was captured during a control action resulting from 4 confirmed sheep losses during 2 depredation incidents. She was released unharmed as the control action called for removal of uncollared wolves only. Four gray pups were produced. This first-year pack had a minimum of 5 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Archie Mountain

This pack was newly documented with the capture of B341 in the summer. Five gray pups were subsequently counted. This first-year pack had a minimum of 7 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.



Archie Mountain pack on a winter day.

Michael Lucid

Bear Valley

One wolf was captured in this pack, resulting in a total of 2 radiocollared wolves, female B215 and male B332. The Bear Valley pack produced 4 gray pups. This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 14 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Big Buck

Alpha female B255 remained the sole radiocollared member of this pack throughout the year. In the spring, IDFG personnel responded to citizens who were concerned because this pack was localized near a horse pasture. Hazing with cracker shells was successful at pushing the wolves from the area. The citizens were provided with a Radio-Activated Guard box, which is used for non-lethal hazing of wolves. Based on tracking evidence, biologists estimated at least 2 pups were produced. This second year pack had a minimum of 4 wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.



Big Buck pack at a stand off with an elk.

Michael Lucid

Calderwood

Alpha female B141 remained the sole radiocollared wolf in this pack. Ground monitoring led to an observation of 1 gray pup. This fourth-year pack contained a minimum of 4 gray wolves and was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

High Prairie

In April, a coyote trapper contacted IDFG to report he had incidentally captured a wolf. The wolf was female B170, a disperser from the Galena pack; she had last been detected as a member of the Galena pack in 2005. She appeared to have lactated in the past, suggesting her status as an alpha (breeder) in the High Prairie pack. She was fitted with a new radiocollar and released. In 2007, she produced at least 1 pup and two of her pack mates were removed in a control action that resulted from 8 confirmed sheep losses, 1 confirmed cattle depredation, and 1 probable dog

depredation. This newly documented pack had a minimum of 3 gray wolves and was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.



B170 recovering nicely after capture.

Michael Lucid

No Man

This newly documented pack produced a minimum of 1 pup and contained a minimum of 2 adults. Multiple trapping attempts were unsuccessful. This pack was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Packer John

Suspected alpha male B262's radio signal was detected on mortality in April. The cause of death was determined to be illegal take. This left alpha female B205 as the remaining radiocollared individual. B205 was recaptured in the summer and fitted with a GPS radiocollar. This pack produced a minimum of 3 pups. The Packer John pack was implicated in 21 confirmed sheep losses resulting in a control action which removed 1 uncollared wolf. This fourth-year pack had a minimum of 3 wolves (2 gray, 1 black) and was not counted as a breeding pair for 2007.



Packer John pack pups in the den.

Nate Borg

Scott Mountain

Multiple trapping attempts were unsuccessful in returning this pack to active monitoring status. Personnel conducting howling surveys heard a minimum of 2 pups and 2 adults respond to them while surveying an area near a historic rendezvous site. This seventh-year pack had a minimum of 4 wolves and counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Steel Mountain

Alpha wolves B189 and R241 were being monitored at the onset of 2007. Subordinate male B271 had last been detected in late December 2006. He was not found in Idaho again, but was eventually observed in Yellowstone National Park in November 2007. At the end of 2007, he appeared to have paired with a dispersing female from the Slough Creek pack. During summer 2007, B325 was captured and fitted with a GPS radiocollar. This radiocollar automatically detached from the wolf's neck in the fall so it could be collected for data retrieval. Biologists counted a minimum of 2 pups in this pack. Two wolves were killed during a control action in response to livestock depredation of 9 confirmed sheep and 1 probable losses. B189 was also recaptured during the control action and was re-collared and released. This fifth-year pack had a minimum of 9 wolves (6 gray, 3 black) and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Thorn Creek

This newly documented pack had 1 active radiocollared wolf, female B340. A minimum of 4 gray pups was produced. Pack size and prior tracking evidence indicated this pack may have been in existence since at least 2006. This pack contained a minimum of 12 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Timberline

Two Timberline pack wolves, B265 and B266, were being monitored at the onset of 2007. However, both of these wolves were missing by the end of April. In June, a GPS radiocollar was fitted on B322. The Timberline pack produced at least 2 gray pups and was implicated in 9 confirmed and 4 probable sheep losses. This sixth-year pack had a minimum of 11 gray wolves and was counted as a breeding pair for 2007.

Warm Springs

Female B283 was the sole radiocollared member of this pack at the beginning of the year. In the fall, B283 was apparently disassociating from the pack. In November, she was seen with another wolf east of Stanley, Idaho, far from the Warm Springs pack's territory. A minimum of 1 pup was produced by the Warm Springs pack. In December, alpha female B109 was recaptured. Her non-functioning radiocollar was removed and she was fitted with a GPS radiocollar. This pack had a minimum of 5 gray wolves and did not count as a breeding pair for 2007.

Suspected Packs

Sweet Ola

Multiple reports indicated there may be an undocumented pack in this area. There were 2 confirmed cattle depredations and 1 probable dog depredation in this area.

2007 Southwest Region Wolf Activity

Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

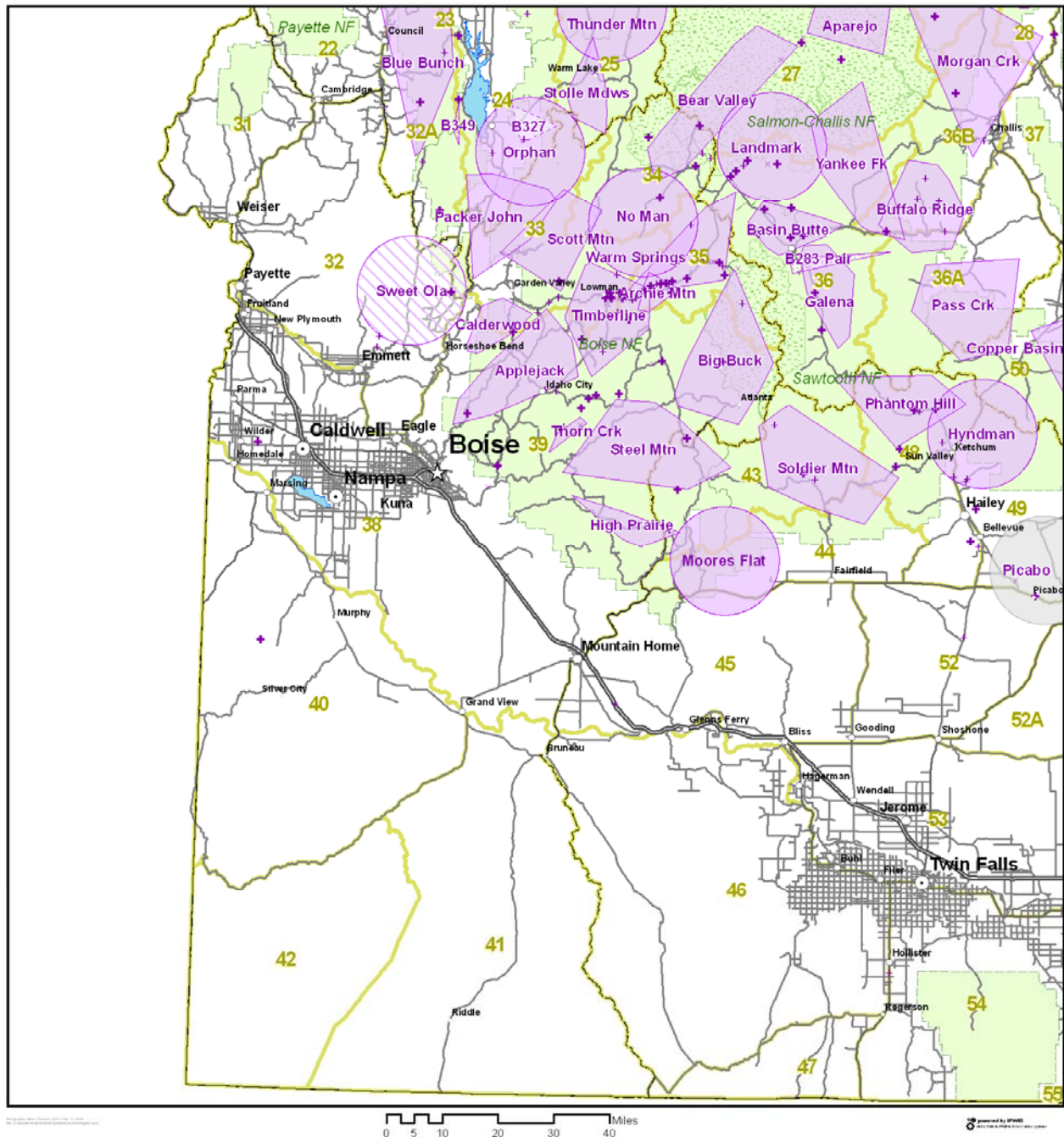
2006-07 Telemetry and Research-based Locations + 2007 Estimated Locations (Not Telemetry-based)**

2007 Public Observations ***

- Documented Pack
- Documented Group (Less than 4 animals)
- Documented Lone Wolf

- Documented Pack
- Documented Group (Pair or Group less than 4 animals)
- Suspected Pack
- Terminated Group

- + Multiple Wolves Observed
- + Single Wolf Sighted
- x Not Specified



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Services and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radiocollared wolves from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2007 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Figure 9. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Nampa Subregion, 2007.

Table 5. Minimum number of wolves detected, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs and other wolf groups within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Nampa Subregion, 2007.

Wolf group ^a	Min. no. wolves detected ^b	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & (probable) wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod. (died) ^c	Reported as		Natural	Control ^e	Other human ^f	Unknwn ^g		Active radio collars	No. wolf captures ^h	No. wolves missing ⁱ	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
			reprod. pack	breeding pair ^d											
DOCUMENTED PACK															
Applejack	5	4	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0
Archie Mountain	7	5	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bear Valley	14	4	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Big Buck	4	2	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Calderwood	4	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
High Prairie	3	1	YES	NO	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	8	(1)
No Man	3	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Packer John	3	3	YES	NO	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	21 ^j	0
Scott Mountain	4	2	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steel Mountain	9	2	YES	YES	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	9(1)	0
Thorn Creek	12	4	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Timberline	11	2	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	9(4)	0
Warm Springs	5	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	84	32			0	5	1	0	2	13	10	2	1	51(5)	(1)
SUSPECTED PACK															
Sweet Ola	1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	(1)
SUBTOTAL	1	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	(1)
UNKNOWN															
	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
REGIONAL TOTAL	85	32			0	5	1	0	2	13	10	2	3	56(5)	(2)

^a Documented pack = territorial groups of wolves usually consisting of an adult male and female and their offspring from one or more generations, and has the potential to reproduce (2 adults of opposite sex). Suspected pack = geographic areas where wolf pack presence was suspected but not verified, or where wolf presence was verified but did not meet documented pack status. Other documented group = verified groups not meeting either documented or suspected pack status (e.g., lone wolves, potential mated pairs, etc.). Unknown = geographic areas where wolf presence was previously unverified and/or no data on group status was known.

^b Summing this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^c Number in parentheses indicates known pup mortality; pup mortalities tallied in the appropriate column in DOCUMENTED MORTALITIES.

^d Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and a female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^e Includes agency lethal control and legal take.

^f Includes all other human-related deaths.

^g Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

Table 5. Continued.

^h Includes wolves captured for monitoring purposes during 2007. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

ⁱ Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2007.

^j Depredation occurred in McCall Subregion.